



Transportation Advisory Committee

Date: November 8, 2023

Time: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM.

Location: Conducted via Remote Participation (Zoom).

Minutes.

1. Administration.

Members in Attendance: John Alessi (DPED), John Aslanian, Beth Benedikt, Bill Copithorne (DPW), Kenny Fennell, Melissa Laube, Jeff Maxtutis, Corey Rateau (APD), Scott Smith, James Stubbe, Laura Swan (Chair), and Shoji Takahashi.

Members Absent: Lenard Diggins.

Members of Public in Attendance: Adam Auster, Natalie Eringros, Phil Goff, Tim Ross, and Petru Sofio.

The Chair provided notice regarding Remotely Conducted Meetings, referring the members to the agenda attachment entitled “Governor Charles Baker’s 3/12/2020 Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law”. The Chair reviewed the meeting ground rules and announced that the meeting was being recorded.

B. Approval of September 13, 2023 Meeting Notes.

Minutes for the Meeting of September 13, 2023, were approved subject to a correction by Melissa Laube in the Dow / Rhinecliff Update: the Working Group has concerns about the idea of placing a bollard in the crosswalk but has not dismissed it.

C. New Associate Members.

TAC welcomes two new Associate Members: Kenny Fennell and Ofer Mazor.

D. Meeting Dates 2024.

TAC Meetings for 2024 will be scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month, except for the February meeting, which will be held on February 7.

E. Correspondence Sent/Received from October 7, 2023 to November 3, 2023.

1. "TAC Decision on Nov 8," Email from the Barbara Thornton to TAC, 10/12/23. This matter is discussed under Agenda #8 below.
2. "Written Comment about "Do Not Enter" signs on Wilson...", Email from the Dave Rensenberger to TAC, 10/13/23. Corey Rateau commented that this is a legal matter that APD will address with the residents. Public street signs apply to all.
3. "Downing Square Preferred Option: Advisory Signage," from the Select Board to TAC, 10/13/23. The Select Board has approved the TAC recommendation.

2. Public Comments (for information only, not for action).

There were no public comments.

3. Town Issues/Activities (not already on the agenda).

A. Update from the Department of Planning and Community Development (John Alessi, DPCD).

Mystic River Path to the Minuteman Bikeway: MassDOT has posted a request for proposals as the project will use Federal funds.

Stratton Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Project: The Town is examining right-of-way plans. The project, including the need to acquire property, will go to the spring Town Meeting for approval.

Bike Lane Design Guide is being updated. The current version was accepted by the Select Board in 2015. Jeff Maxtutis is the TAC Representative, and he will send the draft guide to TAC Members for comments. The deadline for receipt of comments is Friday, November 17.

B. Update from the Department of Public Works (Bill Copithorne, DPW).

Construction season is closing, and plans are underway for next season.

Chestnut St: pavement markings and RRFB installation are completed.

Warren St: resurfacing is completed. Pavement markings of striping the centerline, fog lines, and three marked crosswalks will be completed before the winter.

Street Survey: A bid will be prepared for a contractor to survey the condition of the Town roads. These surveys are conducted every 5 years to gauge DPW's progress.

Magnolia Field pedestrian safety improvement and stormwater-mitigation project: David Morgan, Environmental Planner/Conservation Agent for the Town, obtained a grant to install a pedestrian safety bump out and rain garden near the entrance to the playground.

Summer St and Sunset Rd Crosswalk: curb ramps have been installed. Paint and signage will be coordinated with APD.

C. Update from the Police Department (Corey Rateau, APD).

Corey Rateau has been at the State House to lobby for a bill on enhanced child passenger safety. He has been meeting with DPCD and DPW every 2 weeks to discuss transportation-related matters of the Town.

School Zones: Corey Rateau is preparing a memo to establish a School Zone on River St, and a memo to add a School Zone on Brooks Ave in front of Hardy Elementary School.

InControl Driving School: the grant was awarded to fund up to 30 drivers.

4. Vote: Eastern Ave.

Laura Swan summarized the draft recommendations: (1) expand the School Zone from Scituate St to Grandview Rd; (2) relocate the crosswalk ahead sign closer to the crosswalk; (3) remove the flashing-light school speed limit sign and install static signs; (4) install solar-powered speed feedback sign for downhill (eastbound) traffic. Traffic data recorded the 85th percentile speed as 31 mph. For the longer term, consider a curb bump out at the crosswalk when Eastern Ave is repaved.

Corey Rateau responded that there are MUTCD guidelines on how to establish a School Zone, and this recommendation goes beyond school grounds.

Eastern Ave is assessed at 25 mph, which affects how far a School Zone can extend: 500' before school grounds or one block, whichever is shorter. Going beyond the scope affects enforceability.

John Aslanian commented that edge of Robbins Park extends ~20' beyond, and this is part of the learning environment. Scott Smith asked if a Safety Zone was considered. Laura Swan responded that a Safety Zone must have a minimum length of a quarter-mile, which cannot be accommodated. She will discuss with Corey Rateau on how to set up the signs to maximize the length while permitting enforceability. A Vote will be taken on redrafted recommendations at a future meeting.

5. Vote: Broadway / Rawson Rd (Foster St).

Scott Smith summarized the draft recommendations: (1) expand No Parking on Rawson Rd; (2) paint marked crosswalk across Rawson Rd; (3) move Rawson Rd stop bar closer to the intersection; and (4) obtain traffic counts at River/Bates/Warren/Broadway to see if signal timings can be adjusted to reduce the number of cycle failures (which may be diverting traffic to Rawson). Turning movement counts at River/Bates/Warren/Broadway would also be useful for examining the planned future work on Broadway.

- . In the long-term, consider tightening the road geometry on Foster St. and monitoring traffic volumes on Rawson.

TAC voted unanimously to send the recommendations to the Select Board.

6. Vote: Jason St and Hillsdale Rd.

Jim Stubbe summarized the memo, which recommends no changes.

TAC voted unanimously to send the Memo to the Select Board.

7. Vote: New Pedestrian Flags Locations:

John Alessi received direct emails from residents requesting pedestrian flags to-be installed. He provided a summary of the three intersections and the discussion at the last TAC meeting.

(1) Appleton St / Rhinecliff St.: This is a high-volume road with an MBTA bus route. It was designed as a school crossing earlier this school year with advance warning signs and dedicated school crossing signage. Pedestrian flags would be appropriate for this location.

(2) Summer St / Brattle St.: No pedestrian-flag installation as this is a signal-controlled intersection.

(3) Park Ave /Oakland Ave.: Park Ave at this location is a higher speed 35-mph roadway, and this is part of a larger TAC project. Pedestrian flags are not

sufficient and additional safety enhancements will be required. No pedestrian-flag installation at this time.

TAC voted unanimously to approve the Memo and install the pedestrian flags at the approved locations.

8. Update: Park Ave / Oakland Ave Crosswalk.

Melissa Laube and Jeff Maxtutis conducted site visits. They examined driver compliance of yielding to pedestrians in the crosswalk. If they stepped off the curb, no driver stopped. If they were present in the bike lane, then some drivers stopped. Adding curb extensions to reduce the crossing distance could be helpful. Highlight the bike lanes by painting them green might also enhance visibility of the crossing.

Additional safety elements could further improve the crosswalk such as a speed feedback sign and RRFB. Of note, there are no sidewalks connecting the westside of Oakland Ave where there is a desire path. The westside curb also needs repair. The Working Group will discuss the corridor plans with DPW.

9. Mass Ave and Appleton St.

Stantec is taking comments on the conceptual design until Thursday November 16. Of the comments received, most are related to the westside downhill section of Mass Ave, the crosswalk at Clark St, bus stop, and plaza space at Appleton St / Appleton Pl.

Adam Auster of EALS commented on the downhill section of Mass Ave, noting that trying to slow bikes will cause cyclists to move into the roadway. He asked that the option of a nonseparated bike lane be reconsidered. Petru Sofio responded that infrastructure should be installed that makes bicycle use comfortable for all users. He argued to retain separated in this location.

Scott Smith added that this point was discussed recently at ABAC, noting the need to consider a design speed for bikes (Typical bike commuter speeds are ~15 mph). Cyclists who go faster will move into the street.

10. Update: Dow / Rhinecliff

A draft memo is being prepared for TAC review.

11. Update: Bow St.

A Working Group has been assessing the installation of a crosswalk near the intersection of Bow St and the Minuteman Bikeway. Peirce Elementary School

students cross at this location; OMS and AHS students as well as residents access the Bikeway at this location. Jim Stubbe observed that most pedestrians cross Bow St at the Craigs Landscaping curb cut. Laura Swan added that southbound crossing is more difficult as sightlines are limited, whereas northbound crossing does not have that limitation. The Working Group will revisit the location to see if it can identify a location for a crosswalk.

12. Update: Winter St and Oxford St.

John Aslanian received traffic data from Corey Rateau. He noted that the residents' perceived speed differed from actual (measured) speed. Lesley Ellis has changed its procedure on dismissal: younger children now have to-be picked up by a parent/guardian. This change has improved traffic flow.

A draft memo is being prepared for TAC review.

13. Adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 9pm.